

Ford Tractors Help Solve Drainage Problems On Golf Courses



A 1910 Ford Compact tractor with turf splitter and a 1210 tractor with mole plough at Thorndon Park.

With the combination of lightweight, but powerful, tractors from Ford and turf/grassland tyres, it is now possible to drain and maintain golf courses on heavy clay land throughout the year.

At Thorndon Park golf course, near Brentwood in Essex, the underlying clay soil had produced a bad drainage problem, particularly on the greens, resulting in waterlogging, with related

diseases.

To overcome this and to improve turf quality, a Verti-drain was purchased to remove cores of clay soil. The holes are then filled by a sandy loam mixture encouraging good drainage.

"We purchased the Verti-drain to improve the condition of greens and we required a powerful, but lightweight, tractor to operate the unit," said head greenkeeper Keith Chinery.



Ford's 3910 four-wheel drive tractor with turf tyres at work mole ploughing Dyrham Park fairways.

"The only lightweight tractor we found capable of handling the job was the Ford 1910."

With a lift capacity of 1½ tons, the 32hp 1910 Compact Tractor is powerful enough to lift and operate the Verti-drain and, when fitted with standard turf tyres, the overall ground pressure is reduced to a minimum. The optional creep speed gearbox was selected by Thorndon Park to provide additional control when operating the Verti-drain.

"The Verti-drain removes soil cores of ¾in in diameter and up to eight inches deep and, once removed, these are swept by using a brush fitted to a 16hp 1210 Ford Compact. This system takes less time, is less labour intensive and more effective than the previous system employed.

"With the versatility of the tractors, we are able to use the 1910 for gang mowers or a turf splitter at other times of the year, while the smaller 1210 is used for mole drainage on the fairways," Keith added.

Similar problems were encountered at the Dyrham Park Country Club, near Barnet, Hertfordshire, where surface water could be found on the fairways during the winter.

The course is situated entirely on clay soil, so a sub-soiler was purchased to improve drainage to a depth of 18in. With the very wet conditions, it was impossible to use the machine with an ordinary tractor without causing considerable damage to the turf.

"We looked at various tractors in the 40-50hp range and eventually selected a four-wheel drive, 47hp 3910 Ford, fitted with grassland tyres," course manager Bob Hornegold said.

"My initial reaction was that the tractor would be too big for the course, but I was amazed at what little effect it had on the turf. Previous tractors caused deep ruts.

"Since purchasing the 3910, we have been able to work with the sub-soiler even in very wet conditions. Drainage has been improved on the course, without the expense of employing outside contractors. The tractor can also be used for other tasks such as deep splitter and turf maintenance," Bob said.



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Recommended Reading



A full-colour, pocket-size product manual is available free from ICI Professional Products. The booklet contains technical information on all ICI products for the protection and control of weeds, diseases and pests in sports and amenity turfgrass, landscape and total weed control situations.

A colour-coded index enables you to find, at a glance, the information you require and full-colour weed illustrations assist in identifying problems.

And a free Casoron G granular herbicide dosage indicator is being made available by ICI. It enables operators to check and compare their soil-applied Casoron G application spread pattern with the ideal pattern as shown on the indicator.

The indicator visually shows ideal spread patterns for dose rates ranging from 40-160 kgs per hectare of Casoron G and G4.

These items can be obtained from the Customer Services Department, ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB. Tel: 0252 724525.



New Features For Atco Royale

Seven improvements have been made to the top of the range Atco Royale for the 1987 season, which celebrates its 25th anniversary.

The most important is the 'key-turn' electric start - no longer will users need to stop to pull the recoil mechanism to bring the 5hp engine to life.

The Royale also includes an improved large capacity grassbox - it is now made from polypropylene, which will not dent or rust. Cradle mounted for easy removal and replacement, cut-

The Atco Royale retails at about £1,000 - with the Autosteer seat at £145.



tings are thrown back into the box when it is removed, reducing spillage.

Other new features include an improved throttle control and cushion-grip handlebars. Large diameter side wheels are provided to the continuous front roller. These are particularly useful for cutting long and wet grass.

The Royale is available in three cutting widths - 20in, 24in and 30in. For further information, contact David Wooldridge, Marketing Manager, Atco, Suffolk Works, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1EY. Tel: 0449 612183.

The Continental range of agricultural tyres is now stocked by Axleline Eastern of Hubberts Bridge, Boston, Lincs. Axleline Eastern's stocks of these West German tyres includes the company's MPT 80 radial tyres in 10.5R20, 12.5R20 and 14.5R20 sizes to fit the Mercedes Unimog, as well as other agricultural and industrial equipment.

Tyres for all sizes of farm and garden machinery and tractive tyres for construction equipment complete the Continental range, available through Axleline Eastern distributors. Further information from Hugh Hartley on 020579 531.

Ah! Things Were So Much Better Then...

A notice detailing 'war rules' was recently sent into *Greenkeeper*. It was originally presented to the Ascension Island Golf Club by Whitchurch GC, Cardiff.

During the Battle of Britain, play on golf courses was interfered with by German bombers. To meet the conditions, the following 'rules' were written by Major G. L. Edsell, secretary of the St Mellons Golf and Country Club, Cardiff and generally adopted:

1. Players are asked to collect bomb and shell splinters from the fairways to save these causing damage to mowers.
2. In competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing to play.
3. The positions of known delayed-action bombs are marked by red and white flags placed at reasonably, but not guaranteed, safe distances from the bombs.
4. Shell and/or bomb splinters on the greens may be removed without penalty. On the fairways or in the bunkers within a club's length of a ball, they may be moved without penalty and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally.
5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced as near as possible to where it lay or, if lost or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty.
6. A ball lying in any crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
7. A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb or shell, or by machine-gun fire may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke.

People, Places, Products

The Wentworth Club now has the Sports Turf Research Institute as its course agronomists and advisors.

Dr Peter Hayes, the director, undertook a spring visit and was joined by Keven Munt, recently appointed course manager, who takes up his duties in June. They were accompanied by Mark Couchman, foreman of West Course, and Malcolm Sewell, foreman of East Course.

Mr Doyle-Davidson, managing director of Wentworth Club, said: "We are naturally delighted that Dr Peter Hayes has taken a personal interest in the Wentworth courses and we look forward to a long and happy association with Bingley".

The STRI has also been retained by the club to advise on the technical specification for the new South Course, which has been designed by John Jacobs Golf Associates in conjunction with Gary Player and Bernard Gallacher.



The R&A has purchased some 59 acres of farming land adjacent to the 9th at Muirfield, north of the road from Gullane to North Berwick. It has been acquired to ensure the long-term availability of this area for car parking and tented village activities during the Open.

Mark Couchman, West Course foreman, Dr Peter Hayes, newly appointed Wentworth Club course manager Kevin Munt and East Course foreman Malcolm Sewell.



Bernard Rooke (right) received his award from Bob Dodsworth.

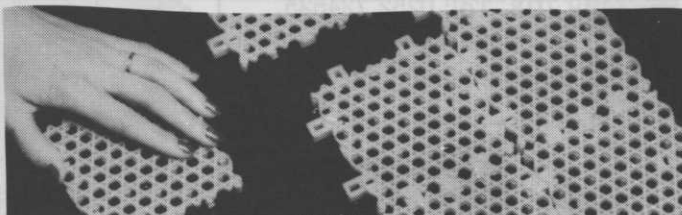
Following in the footsteps of his grandfather Albert Cole, who retired from Ransomes in 1937 after 51 years, Bernard Rooke has received his 50 years service award from group chief executive Bob Dodsworth.

After ten years as Ransomes' grass machinery technical sales and service manager based in Ipswich, in 1971 Bernard joined Ransomes Deutschland in Munster to take charge of the technical side, making a major contribution to the company's success in the West German market.

During the past six months, he has been Ransomes' technical sales and service specialist for Europe, with special responsibilities for new products.

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Ian Knipe, owner of the 18-hole Lakey Hill club at Hyde, Wareham, Dorset, took delivery of two new items of Cushman equipment recently from Huxleys area manager Martin Cooke.

The Cushman Front Line ride-on rotary mower, pictured left, was the first unit to be supplied in Britain by Huxleys equipped with the latest 21.5hp three-cylinder diesel engine. This top-of-the-range machine also features full power steering and can be supplied with a choice of 60in or 72in side- or rear-discharge cutting decks.

The new Cushman Three-Wheel Turf Truckster will be used with the club's existing Huxley and Cushman turf maintenance and transport attachments.

Lakey Hill has over 700 playing members. Following their purchase of the club just over a year ago, Mr and Mrs Knipe initiated a £400,000 development and refurbishment programme for the clubhouse and course.

A new pro's shop (left background) has opened recently, while a 24-bay driving range is under construction.

Ian Knipe (right) with the new Cushman equipment at Lakey Hill.



BASF has appointed Hodges and Moss distributor of Compo Floranid fertilisers in the West Midlands.

Based at Shrewsbury, the recently formed industrial and amenities division of Hodges and Moss has established itself as a major supplier of products and services to the amenity market in Shropshire, Cheshire,

Staffordshire and North Wales.

Floranid is suited to modern intensively managed areas that demand high slow-release content fertilisers. It is also able to resist the leaching caused by the region's relatively high rainfall.

Hodges and Moss can be visited at its premises on Lancaster Road, Shrewsbury or contacted on 0743 241277.

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People, Places, Products
Continued...



David Wall.

David Wall has been appointed technical rep for Rigby Taylor (South), covering selected accounts in Surrey, south-west London and the west and north-west territories of London.

David will continue to live at Leatherhead, Surrey. He is assistant manager of Sutton United FC and holds an FA coaching badge. David was coach of Leatherhead FC during the FA Cup run in 1974 and accompanied them to Wembley for the 1978 FA Trophy.

Mike Shephard has joined the amenity and industrial products technical sales team at Synchemicals. He will cover the north of England from the Scottish Border to the Midlands. Mike was previously employed in a similar role at Erin Marketing.

Norman Jones, director of Birds Grass Care at Bancyfelin, Carmarthen retired recently.

Following service in the RAF, Norman joined Birds in 1959 covering the old county of Monmouthshire as a sales engineer. He was then made manager of the newly opened branch at Bancyfelin. Norman became a director of Birds in 1977.

The depot will now be supervised by Steve Mathews, who joined the company in 1981 and has been responsible for the parts and service department.

Richard Williams has been appointed sales engineer. Richard, 31, will be based at Willsbridge, near Keynsham. Richard worked as a greenkeeper and service engineer before joining Birds a year ago.

Birds Grass Care has joined forces with Kubota to market its range of compact tractors in South Wales and the west of England. Pictured is general manager Jeff Bird selling the first Kubota to a local contractor.



Top: Steve Mathews. Above: Richard Williams.



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Victa (UK) of Basingstoke and Victa of Sydney, Australia have become part of the Reil Corporation of Australia. The companies have been acquired from Allegheny International USA and the agreement includes the purchase of the Sunbeam Pacific Division of Allegheny International.

John Edmunds, managing director of Victa (UK), said: "This is an exciting opportunity for us to develop our already expanding and profitable grass machinery business in the UK and Europe. Our plans for further expansion can now be implemented and we can go forward with confidence."

The National Turfgrass Council is holding its fourth residential seminar at the Post House Hotel, Rye Hill, Allesley, Coventry on October 21-22. The theme is *Water Management for Turf-grasses*.

Drainage techniques, the latest irrigation technology and how to manage water features on golf

courses or country parks will be among the many aspects covered in the seminar by a team of 13 speakers.

The cost is £96, for those booking in advance, which covers all expenses (accommodation, meals and seminar proceedings). Further details and booking form from the Secretary, NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ.

A video, available on free loan, shows the full range of hydraulic reel-mowers designed and built by Huxleys Grass Machinery specifically for use with compact and smaller-sized tractors. Six mowers, with working widths from 5ft 6in to 11ft 6in, are featured in the seven minute video, which is available in either VHS or Beta formats from Huxleys Grass Machinery, The Dean, New Alresford, Hants SO24 9BL. Tel: 0962 733222.

A new company has been established to offer systems for

selective weed control in municipal, industrial and horticultural situations.

Called Spot-on Systems, it is based at Kidderminster, Worcestershire and operates across the UK through a network of distributors. It is headed by Alan Bradbury as managing director and James Bradbury as sales director.

Further information on the systems and chemicals is available from James Bradbury at Spot-on Systems, 116 Chester Road South, Kidderminster, Worcestershire. Tel: 0562 748316.

Ian Marshall, greenkeeper at Wellingborough, is this year's Northamptonshire captain. Ian, in fact, has a wealth of county golf experience. He first played for Dorset and won the county championship in 1967 when aged seventeen. He has also appeared for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Now playing off three, Ian has won the Wellingborough club title three times and is the current holder.

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International Deal For Nomix

Bristol-based Nomix Manufacturing, makers of low-volume spraying systems, have finalised a deal with USA chemical multinational Monsanto.

Monsanto has been licensed by Nomix to distribute its equipment and use the Nomix trademark throughout the world. Monsanto has acquired a minority stake in Nomix and, over the next ten years, Nomix estimates that exports and royalty payments will exceed £20 million.

Nomix founder and managing director David Gill said: "The agreement provides our system with immediate export outlets, particularly in North America, and we believe it recognises the pre-eminence of Nomix's technology not only in the UK, but worldwide."

The Nomix spraying system, with its high level of safety and operator protection, is, Monsanto believes, indicative of the way the market will develop.

Nomix Manufacturing was founded by David Gill, who



Monsanto president Nick Redding with David Gill.

previously sold low-volume spraying equipment. In just over three years, the company has established itself as one of the UK's leading manufacturers of low-volume herbicide spraying equipment.

It was dissatisfaction with conventional spraying systems, which meant the mixing of herbicides and water, that led David Gill to develop his new spraying system. Conventional spraying systems are wasteful, cannot be controlled and can create problems of herbicide drift and creep.

The company claims that the Nomix spraying system is safer and more efficient than conventional knapsack spraying systems. It incorporates a spinning disc that creates droplets of herbicide which can be seen by the operator when spraying, assisting control and confining spraying to a precise area, therefore eliminating drift problems.

The Nomix system is a major improvement for operators, especially as the pre-mixed herbicide requires no direct operator contact.

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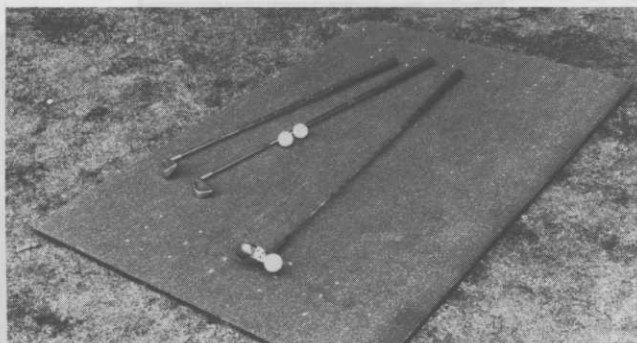
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